

HOUSE RESOLUTION 52

By Bone

A RESOLUTION to honor gospel singer Fred VanHook of Lebanon.

WHEREAS, it is most fitting that this General Assembly should pay homage to those inspirational artists who perform pure and passionate gospel music; and

WHEREAS, Fred VanHook is an exemplary gospel singer who has inspired and uplifted audiences with his unique musical style for more than half a century; and

WHEREAS, Mr. VanHook has been a leading voice at gospel meetings in Wilson County and Middle Tennessee for more than fifty years, and he is recognized as one of the finest and longest-standing gospel singers in the State; and

WHEREAS, his musical roots go back to First Baptist Church in Lebanon, where he first worshiped with his parents, singing in the choir and learning the power of gospel music; Mr. VanHook was further inspired by his brother, Les, an artist-musician; and

WHEREAS, with his glorious, resonating, baritone bass voice, Mr. VanHook has led revival crusades and directed church music for forty-five years, including long stints at Immanuel Baptist Church in Wilson County; Rome Baptist Church in Smith County; and Dry Creek Baptist Church in DeKalb County, where he currently serves as the music director; and

WHEREAS, Mr. VanHook has shared his influential voice for more than thirty-five years at the annual Wilson County Gospel Musical Festival held at Cumberland University. The music festival, which he helped organize and in which he sings with his group, Fred VanHook and the Harmonizers, is one of the premiere festivals of its kind in the State; and

WHEREAS, Fred VanHook and the Harmonizers have released several inspirational albums; their current album, *Abiding in Jesus*, features four songs written by Mr. VanHook, who

lends his deep, distinguished vocals to the songs. He is also an accomplished musician on piano, accordion, and guitar; and

WHEREAS, the current lineup of Fred VanHook and the Harmoneers has a down-home, family flavor, featuring the marvelous singing talents of Mr. VanHook's daughter, Jeanette Beaty, and son, James VanHook. Also participating are the extremely talented and sensational singers Lynn Winfree and Janet Bayne; and

WHEREAS, Mr. VanHook, a member of the Mid-South Gospel Music Association, has accomplished much in his long, distinguished, and influential career as a gospel singer; highlights of his illustrious career include singing on stage at the Grand Ole Opry and on Sunday Night Gospel; and

WHEREAS, a native of Lebanon, Mr. VanHook, has served with acumen and alacrity in the real estate business for the past twenty-one years and is a managing broker at West Main Realty and Auction, in which position he has earned the respect of his colleagues and clients for the exemplary quality of his work; and

WHEREAS, Mr. VanHook, who has always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order, is deeply devoted to his wife, Faye; their three children, Joyce, Jeanette, and James; and their four grandchildren, Jonathan, Kristopher, Matthew, and Jessica; and

WHEREAS, spreading the Good News of the Gospel through his inspiring brand of gospel music, Fred VanHook should be commended for entertaining his faithful fans and bringing meaning to thousands of lives by spreading the love of Jesus Christ; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we honor and recognize Fred VanHook, one of gospel music's finest voices, for his ongoing legacy of creating beautiful music with an inspirational message, and wish him much continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.